Ryan Fan

Period 6

Title

On March 7th, 2010, ten different movies were primed for grasping the most renowned miniature nude man in the world and the title of Best Picture of the Year. The Eighty-Second Annual Academy Awards was a night of dreams, hopes, tears, and in-your-face speeches that culminated with the presenting of Oscar Awards for only those who rightly deserved them. Running among movie giants such as *Avatar* and *The Hurt Locker* for Best Picture were the two distinguished films *Invictus* and *District 9*, one about a conflicted national rugby team and the other regarding an alien race stranded on Earth and forced to survive under reluctant and oppressive human hosts. Doubtless of aesthetic differences, the major theme expressed through both of these visual masterpieces reflects one of the most infamous events in recent human history. Through ingenious storytelling, *Invictus* and *District 9* offer a creative window into the historic past of the Republic of South Africa, specifically of an era from 1950 – 1993 known collectively as the Age of Apartheid. From the Afrikaans word for “apartness,” apartheid has dominated every aspect of the country from its integration as a British colony to its most recent events. Parallel to segregation in the United States, the Age of Apartheid echoed the consequences of a corrupt government, the unjust punishment of innocent people, and the global affect and inspiration brought on by an atrocious prejudice towards those who are different.